



# REVELATIONS

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus

December 2025  
Volume 25 Issue 4

## Clergy Team Message

*O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

Advent and Christmas are seasons when we repeatedly hear the invitation to "Come!"

From curious community members coming to see John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, to shepherds and magi coming to see the Christ born into our world, the main characters in our Biblical stories in these seasons all offer the invitation and are responding to the invitation to come and see, come and adore Christ the Lord.

As a Parish of the Valley Family we have been responding to this invitation already this Advent. We come and gather in quiet and candlelight each



Wednesday in Advent for our Advent Taizé service. We have come together and offered songs of praise and adoration at the

Celebration of Light Evensong at St. John's Eganville. We came with wiggles and giggles to St. George's South Alice to share in the joy of God's creation at Messy Church. We come and don costumes for Christmas Pageants. We have come to offer more musical praise and celebration at A Joyous Prelude to Christmas at Holy Trinity Pembroke and again for Lessons & Carols at the Upper Ottawa Heritage Centre Museum Church and then again soon with fiddle music with the YoYo Mamas at Epiphany Barry's Bay.

And, of course, we anticipate coming together in Christmas worship across the



parish for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, the First Sunday of Christmas, and then, finally, Epiphany.

Wherever you are, whatever you feel this Advent and Christmas, please come. Come and invite others to come with you as together we gather and celebrate the Word becoming flesh and coming to dwell in and among us.

*O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Advent and Christmas be with you and those you love in these seasons.

Rev. Matthew, Rev. Gillian, Rev. Nick,  
& Rev. Christine

## Only in the Anglican Church in Canada

*Submitted by The Rev. Allan Studd*

Betty and I took the opportunity of being fully retired and drove out to visit our daughter, now settled in Kamloops B.C. We left in mid-September and drove in beautiful late summer weather across the country, arriving in Kamloops 9 days later. It was a Thursday. On the Saturday I decided that I wished to attend church on the next day. So, I looked up the only Anglican Church in Kamloops, and found St. Paul's Cathedral, cathedral church for the Territory of the People.

We would like to spend more time in Kamloops, helping our daughter and getting to know the southern part of British Columbia and so I felt like I needed to establish a spiritual home while I am in the city. So, on the Sunday morning I drove downtown and parked near St. Paul's. I walked a few blocks to the Cathedral and met a young woman handing out bulletins at a side door. I greeted her and stepped inside the Cathedral. I was in the very front of the pews! "Oh dear", I thought. "Anglicans don't do this", but I held my head high, gritted my teeth and walked in front of everybody to the centre aisle and down several rows to a vacant seat. I could feel all the eyes on me and could almost hear people wondering, "Who is this? Never seen him before."

I seated myself and got busy looking at the bulletin and inserts and checking which hymn book was being used (blue Common Praise) and whether there was a BAS close by. I had not been seated for 2 minutes when I received a tap on my shoulder. As I turned around a familiar voice was asking "Are you the Rev. Allan Studd?"



As I looked into the kindly face of the woman who was asking, I panicked. Who was

this? Where do I know her from? I had a career as a priest in British Columbia and the Yukon. Is it someone from the Cathedral in Whitehorse, who I really should remember – or worse, a parishioner from the small mining community which I had served? Luckily, she saw my terror and quickly identified herself: "I'm Karen, from Whitney, in the Parish of the Valley, Karen Shouldice, and Bob is over there," she said pointing to somewhere over towards the left side of the Church. "You've been in our house!" I think I stood there with my mouth open and then reminded myself to shut it.

"What on earth are they doing here?" I wondered. "She is acting like she belongs here." "Bob and I saw you come in. We looked at each other and said, Isn't that Allan?"

I responded with, "I think we need a hug." Of course I know them! Church in Whitney in the winter was in their lovely living room looking over the river. Bob would meet me at the Liquor Store so I could find the house. The last time, maybe the last two times, I had gone to take services in another home in Whitney and had wondered what happen to the Shouldices. They now live in a suite designed for them in their son's house along the South Thompson River east of Kamloops. And yes, they do belong to the St. Paul's Cathedral congregation. Bob knows

everybody and Karen is deeply involved with the altar guild among other things. They seem well settled although I got the impression that they miss Whitney and their house there. So, we sat together, got caught up, exchanged emails and telephone numbers. They definitely send their love and greetings to all their friends in the Parish of the Valley.

Only in the Anglican Church can you cross the continent and enter a church you have never been in and have people say, "Isn't that Allan?!"

## The Advent Appeal

The Parish of the Valley Advent Appeal is our annual Parish-wide stewardship initiative to support our local congregations and the various ministries they offer and support. The Parish of the Valley's Advent Appeal is now entering its sixth year. Together over these last five years we have raised \$85,000 to support the many and varied ministries of our local congregations. Each gift, big and small, is another opportunity for us to offer to God more than we could ever ask or imagine: in Messy Church, in sharing in the making and serving of food, in offering pastoral care to one another, in keeping the lights lit in our churches and opening our doors for worship. Our Church and Parish Families are stronger when we come together in God's presence to magnify God's love and joy in our lives.

You can read more about the Advent Appeal from the package that came in the mail at the end of November or visit [valleyanglicans.ca](http://valleyanglicans.ca)





## Quilts for Survivors Update

*Submitted by Jean Ostrom*

Byron and Jean Ostrom travelled to Timmins in early October to deliver the quilts that were blessed at the Parish Wide service in September. There were four large boxes containing 43 quilts and quilt tops and 34 - 16" blocks to be put together into quilt tops.

Vanessa Grenier from Quilts for Survivors received them enthusiastically and showed them the changes that have been made since their visit last year. A design wall has been erected, re-wiring has been done to allow as many as 25 sewing machines to operate at one time (which they needed in September when they had a quilting retreat and made 140 quilts in four days) and new heavy-duty tables have been purchased that don't bounce when sewing machines are at work.

Since our last visit last fall, the new Bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee, the Rt. Rev. Rodney Wallace BrantFrancis who was consecrated in a service in Timmins in May, visited their studio in a deconsecrated Anglican church in South Porcupine and suggested their building needed a name. Their building has now been named Zoagi'ineGamig, or "The Place that Gives Love."



Vanessa also proudly showed us the "Golden Scissors" awarded to Quilts for Survivors at an international gathering for the social impact their organization has had. As of our visit, they have sent out 7,750 quilts to survivors of residential schools, and had nearly 200 more ready to send.

## Christmas Toy Drive for the Eganville Food Bank

*Submitted by Heather Park-Wheeler*

The Eganville Food Bank is blessed by a large team of volunteers, and never is that more apparent than at Christmas when there are extra dimensions to its

ministry of giving. The Eganville Food Bank and special Christmas Toy Drive was started by now-retired the Rev. Gale Edmonson. Originally, the toy sorting took place in her home, but as the volume grew, the toy sorting and distribution was moved to the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Eganville.

The Toy Drive grew out of a coordinated effort to provide Christmas toys to families who are regular recipients of food from the Food Bank. There is a partnership with the local community, through the local branch of the Bonnechere Union Public Library, to assist with providing toys to support a joyful holiday for kids. Every patron of the library in Bonnechere Valley is welcome to take a star from the Angel Tree and purchase a gift.

I became involved with the Food Bank a few years after moving from Ottawa, where I had volunteer Food Bank experience in reception and distribution. Rev. Gale brought me into the Toy Drive operations a few years ago and I now coordinate the process.

Early in November, the Food Bank starts creating anonymous lists of children's age and gender as the families register for the Christmas Hamper program. The library staff put up a Christmas tree near the entrance just after Remembrance Day, then cut out paper stars to hang from the tree. Each star will represent a child with age and gender recorded on the front. As patrons of the library drop in over the next four weeks, they can take a star and purchase a gift for that child.

The unwrapped gift with star attached must be returned to the library by the Friday before the Hamper distribution Wednesday. As gifts are purchased, the donors take them back to the library where they are stored until our toy team collects them. Children from newborn to age 16 automatically get a star on the tree, but if there is a

family with children who are getting gifts but also have older children, we provide a gift card so that the older children are not left out.

The day the toys are picked up at the library, we have four or five people and at least three cars to transport the gifts to the church. There are tables set up in the church hall and as we



carry the items in, we try to place them in age order, from youngest to oldest.

On Saturday morning when all the gifts are lined up on tables by age (and gender), volunteers take family lists and collect and group the appropriate toys for each beneficiary family. Bags then line up all around the church hall, one for each family. We double and triple check each bag to ensure that we have matched all of the right gifts with each child in each family.

These bags are left in the church hall until the following Wednesday when the Christmas Hamper distribution takes place at the Food Bank between 9am and 1 pm. We ensure there are volunteers at the church for the same hours so that families can come over to pick up their toy sacks after receiving their Christmas Hampers.

We always have a table of extra items from people in the community available for parents to select from: people in the community who love to knit toques, socks, and mittens for the kids, as well as colouring books, crayons, coloured pencils, markers, construction paper. A local dental practice donates toothbrushes and toothpaste and the Food Bank sends over candy canes that have been donated through the central food bank.

If families are unable to pick up on Christmas Hamper and Toy distribution day, we bring the toy bags to the Food Bank for storage until families can pick up on another day before Christmas. We make every effort to get the Christmas Hampers to the families so if someone needs their things delivered, we will find someone to do that.

We could not operate the Toy Drive without the volunteer efforts of many people and the generosity of our community.

## **Greetings from All Saints, Petawawa**

*Submitted by Marion LeMotte & Louise Doran*

Advent is here and, as the song says, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Let's first look back as to what has already happened.

After much legwork, done by Phil our organist, we have a new-to-us organ. Our old one, donated by funds from Mable Buttle, had outlived its expected life by five years and was not repairable. So, 25 plus years later, again through the generosity of parishioners we are blessed with beautiful organ music. Talking about Phil we must mention his



contribution to the success of our Christmas Tea & Bazaar. His background piano music really added to the festive atmosphere. Another gentleman who again was helping out with the tea and coffee station was Art. The best part was that Minnie was able to be present after spending a year in

hospital. What a gift to us all for having Minnie present!

After much preparation, led by Sharon, our annual tea & bazaar was ready to go. Vicki "stepped up to the plate" and took over the



responsibility of the kitchen. It was a great success! We welcomed many happy visitors who said that they always look forward to our tea. We sent some of the excess food to the MESA Warming Centre and we heard back that it was greatly enjoyed. Well done everyone!

We continue to contribute to Food Bank Sundays, dividing the articles between the Petawawa Pantry & St. Joseph's Food Bank in Pembroke. Our weekly after church lunches are appreciated, not only for the tasty food but also for the important socializing. A big thank you to those taking a turn to provide this important ministry.

Coming up will be our Ladies Group Christmas luncheon. Our special guests will include members from our sister church St. George's, as well as ladies from the community who graciously helped on the day of the tea. At our next meeting we will be discussing our Christmas outreach to the community. In the past this has included the S.P.C.A., Christmas Angels, The Grind, Petawawa Pantry & St. Joseph's Food Bank.



We will also be organizing gifts for our shut-ins. Through the year we have collected items and gifts that will be taken to Carefor to be given out. This year everyone on the Parish of the Valley Pastoral list will be receiving in their gift package a pocket prayer shawl. These all have been lovingly made by Oude, one of our much appreciated parishioners. Several of our church family members are going through some extremely difficult times so extra prayers are being sent their way.

Thanks go out to everyone in our church community who help to make it the special welcoming place that it is. We continue to be so thankful that we are blessed with our wonderful caring clergy team of Rev. Matthew, Rev. Gillian, Rev. Nick & Rev. Christine. Thank You!

### ***From the All Saints Ladies Group***

*Submitted by Sharon Dainty*

As the year comes to an end, day light savings time ends, leaves falling and now snow days, we think back on all we have done to be kind, helpful and sharing support to each of our



friends and family. All Saints Anglican Church Petawawa Ladies Group can look over our numerous events and know we have done our work with success. Our Rummage sale, Sunday luncheons shared in fellowship, birthdays celebrated – including a very special one this year, Josie Hopper's 90<sup>th</sup>

– with family and friends. We support our families throughout our All Saints congregation during their most difficult times as well. We enjoyed our Christmas Tea and Bazaar on November 22 at the church hall. Our Ladies Group are always hard at work in any event or occasion that we take on. Our group is small, as others are over the Parish of the Valley churches, but gather together in support of our church and what the next day brings us. Our donations to the Petawawa Food Bank, and St Joseph's again makes our congregation feel so satisfied in helping others during the year. May your coming days to Advent and our Christmas season be one of caring, sharing, kindness and always good health and happiness!

### **Merry Christmas from St. Georges!**

*Submitted by Kim Silkie & Bernard Raglin*

How quickly the year passes! Advent again, and with the season, comes all the preparation & planning for Christmas. Here at St. George's, we were pleased to host the Parish's third "Messy Church." Each time it is held we gain a few more participants. This time we enjoyed a fun-filled time of Christmas themed activities.

The fall has been relatively quiet for St. George's, aside from catering the Parish Leaders' Day gathering at Holy Trinity in mid-November.

We both participated in a project conducted by Mykayla Turner from Saint Paul University in Ottawa, focusing on rural ministry. It was very informal and gave us the opportunity to share the history of St. George's and our love for this little church that has become an integral part of our lives. We are so proud of our Anglican church which has become a landmark for Laurentian Valley. Local folks refer to St. George's as "The little white church on the corner of Sandy Beach & Doran Road."



To add to the beauty and charm of our peaceful setting, an Anglican Church Flag has been erected in the Millennium Garden in memory of Jamie

Bramburger. Many thanks to Matthew & Gillian for gifting the flag to us and Harris & Robbie for getting it up and flying. It is a beautiful addition to our church grounds/graveyard and stands tall and waves proudly of our Anglican heritage. What a fitting tribute to a pillar of our community (Jamie) who was baptized and confirmed here and began his faith journey at this place of worship.

In this season of hope, love & joy, let us be mindful of those who are less fortunate, giving generously to our local food banks. Remember those who are ill, grieving or lonely; stop by for a visit, drop off a meal or goodies, take time to call. Check in on the elderly - offer a helping hand or just spend some time chatting. In doing so, you will receive much more than you give. What wonderful gifts to share!

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with hope, love & joy!



## So Far This Season: Advent & Christmas Events from across the Parish of the Valley

### November 20<sup>th</sup> - The Holy Trinity Pembroke ACW Holly Bazaar & Luncheon



### November 29<sup>th</sup> - Wine & Cheese Paring for Epiphany, Barry's Bay



### November 22<sup>nd</sup> - The All Saints Petawawa Christmas Tea & Bazaar



### November 30<sup>th</sup> - Celebration of Light Evensong at St. John the Evangelist, Eganville

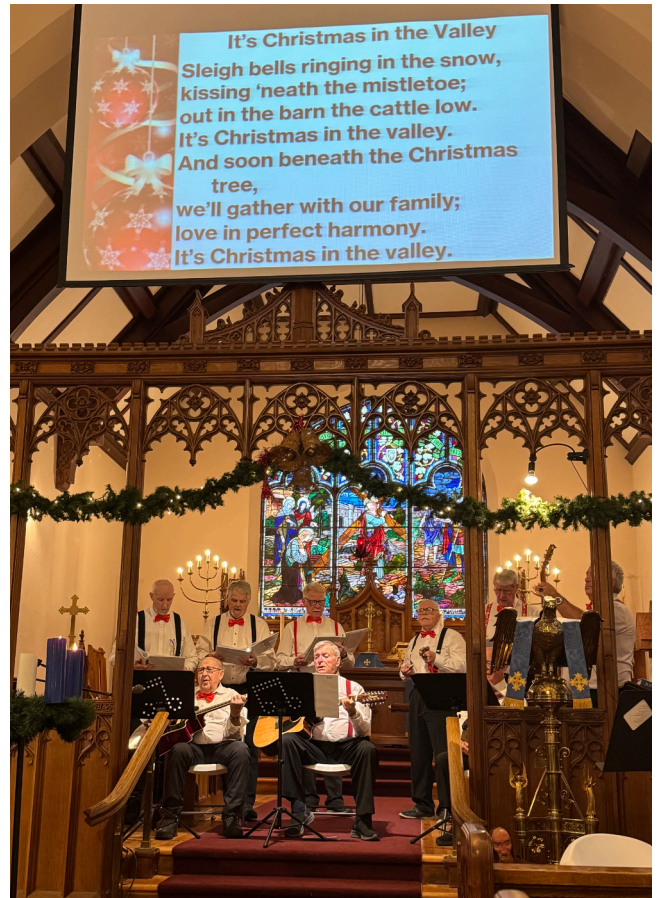




**December 5<sup>th</sup> - Parish of the Valley Messy Church at St. George's South Alice**



**December 7<sup>th</sup> - A Joyous Prelude to Christmas at Holy Trinity Pembroke**



**December 7<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Pageant at Holy Trinity Pembroke**





## Holy Trinity Pembroke Cemetery Update

*Submitted by Robert Hanson*

Our cemetery has now been put to bed with loving care from Andrew Hein and his competent crew, our caretakers, for this year. We have had a very busy year, unfortunately with a great many burials, as well as the building of our beautiful columbarium. The sale of niches in our columbarium is ahead of schedule, with 12 having been sold and 3 reserved for consideration.

As you are aware the columbarium is now finished and many of the niches doors have been adorned with beautiful plaques. Gale Marion has now designed and affectionately planted our beautiful prayer garden in the centre of our cemetery, by the columbarium and it will flourish and blossom in the spring. Please note that residence in our columbarium is not restricted to members of our congregation, but to anyone who is baptized in the Christian Faith.

Thinking ahead we will try and keep abreast of the desire to keep our cemetery up to date and a beautiful sincere and quiet space for people to come, walk and meditate. Please come and use this beautiful space.

I would like to thank all those who have donated both their time and resources to assist us in making our cemetery what it is today. Without all of you this place would not be what it is today. Your gifts of resources and time have assisted in our pleasure and we are currently in a financially stable position.

## Holy Trinity ACW Quilt Raffle



Lottery License #841159

The Holy Trinity ACW is pleased to present the queen sized quilt "Falling Leaves" (value \$1000) is available to win by raffle.

Tickets are now available at \$5/ticket or 3 for \$10 and are available on Sundays in the

Church Hall or by emailing one of the ACW Executive Members: Maggie Jacques (marjoriemorris58@gmail.com), Karen Irvine (karen.irvine@hotmail.com), or Nancy Clarke (nancy\_clark@outlook.com).

The draw will be held at the Holy Trinity Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon on Tuesday, February

17, 2026 at 1pm and the winner will be contacted and listed here and on the church bulletin board.

For more information, and to see more pictures of the beautiful quilt, please see the website: <https://www.valleyanglicans.ca/pages/holy-trinity-acw-quilt-affle>.



## Yates Bequest Donations

In 2015 the congregation of St. Paul's Cobden was blessed to receive a generous bequest in the amount of \$1.5 million from the estates of Mr. and Mrs. Basil and Greta Yates. In response to this wonderful act of Christian stewardship, in 2016 the Vestry of St. Paul's Cobden established a bequest committee. The committee meets on an annual basis each November and is mandated by the St. Paul's Vestry to prayerfully disburse dividends generated by St. Paul's holdings in the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa that are in excess of the annual financial needs of the congregation.

For 2025 the St. Paul's bequest committee has been pleased to disburse **\$13,650** in financial support to various charities and social service agencies across Renfrew County and beyond. These groups include:

- The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #550 (Cobden)
- Cobden District Public School
- Renfrew County District School Board Student Support Fund
- Cobden & District Food Bank
- Recovery Road
- The Bishop's Discretionary Fund
- Caressant Care Cobden
- Marianhill Hospice - Pembroke
- Hospice Renfrew
- The Canadian Bible Society
- The Grind
- Teen Challenge - Eastern Ontario
- Bernadette McCann House
- The Robbie Dean Centre
- Our Daily Bread
- The Dementia Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County



- Impact Zambia
- The Big Give Cobden

In addition, the bequest committee is very pleased to contribute **\$9,000** to Holy Trinity Pembroke to help support the cost of shared administrative assistance for the Parish of the Valley in 2025. Similar gifts have generously been made by St. Paul's to Holy Trinity in 2020, 2022, 2023, and 2024, and the bequest committee remains committed to maintaining funding at this level on an annual basis (dividends permitting) in the years to come.

The Parish of the Valley is incredibly proud of St. Paul's Cobden's continuing generosity towards the needs of our area parish and towards the needs of our Renfrew County community as a whole.



### ***Timeline for An Episcopal Election***

On June 29, 2025, our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Shane A.D. Parker, was elected to be the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. His last day as our bishop was September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our diocese is now in the process for preparing for an episcopal election, which will be held at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa on February 28, 2026. A Diocesan Profile has been prepared and candidates can now be nominated to stand for election as our next bishop. A nominee must have at least 5 clergy and 5 lay members of synod sign their nomination form.

Nominations received on or before January 24, 2026 will be able to participate in a series of Public Townhall Meetings across our diocese in mid-late February. We will host one of these meetings at Holy Trinity Pembroke on a yet-to-

be-announced date. These Public Townhall Meetings are open to anyone, whether or not you are a member of synod, and will be an opportunity to meet nominees for our next bishop and hear them respond to a variety of questions about themselves and their ministry.

The election will be February 28, 2026 and the new bishop will be consecrated and installed as our bishop on May 9, 2026.

Above all, please hold this process and all who are participating in it in your prayers in the days and months to come: *Most gracious and loving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Bishop for our diocese. Open our hearts and minds and give us your insight, that we may be faithful to Your will in preparing for, and carrying out the election. Bless and guide all those who will elect our new Bishop. Deepen our trust in your guidance, O God, that we may move forward with you in our life together, through the power of your Holy Spirit and in the Name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **Upcoming Events Across the Parish**

December 17 at 3pm - YoYo Mamas Christmas Concert at Epiphany Barry's Bay

December 17 at 4pm - Advent Taizé at Holy Trinity Pembroke & Live-streamed

December 17 at 7pm - YoYo Mamas Christmas Concert at Epiphany Barry's Bay

December 21 at 11:15am - Christmas Pageant at All Saints Petawawa

Aborn House Office Closed December 23, 2025 through January 5, 2026

February 13 - Soup & Sandwich for Flannel Fest at Epiphany, Barry's Bay

February 17 - Shrove Tuesday - Watch for Pancake Meals across the Parish!

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

February 28 - Episcopal Election

February 28 - Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser for The Grind Pembroke

# Christmas Services in the Parish of the Valley

## Christmas Eve - December 24

**2:00pm**

St. Anthony's Whitney

**4:00pm**

All Saints Petawawa (Children's Service)

Epiphany Barry's Bay

St. Augustine's Beachburg

St. Paul's Cobden

**7:00pm**

Ascension Killaloe

Holy Trinity Pembroke

St. George's South Alice

St. John's Eganville

St. Stephen's Micksburg

## Christmas Day - December 25

10:00am – Holy Trinity Pembroke

11:00am – St. John's Eganville

## First Sunday of Christmas - December 28

8:00am – Holy Trinity Pembroke

9:00am – Ascension Killaloe (Lessons & Carols)

10:00am – Holy Trinity Pembroke

11:00am – St. John's Eganville (Lessons & Carols)

*Thank You to our Revelations Sponsors!*

*Malcolm, Deavitt & Binhammer*  
— FUNERAL HOME —

Built On A Tradition of Excellence Since 1897

141 Renfrew St., P.O Box 74, Pembroke, ON

613-732-3637 • [info@mdbfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@mdbfuneralhome.com)

**Neville**  
FUNERAL HOME

*Serving Families  
Since 1908*

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

CHRIS NEVILLE, M.F.D.

LORNE NEVILLE

ERIC ZADOW

ERIN MYLES

491 Isabella Street


Pembroke, Ontario, K8A 5T8

Telephone - (613) 732-7481

Fax - (613) 732-8723

Email - [nevillefh@sympatico.ca](mailto:nevillefh@sympatico.ca)

[www.nevillefuneralhome.ca](http://www.nevillefuneralhome.ca)

Affordable retirement living  
in the  of the Valley.

**Carefor**

Civic Complex & Mackay Centre

[carefor.ca/retirement](http://carefor.ca/retirement) - 613-732-9993

[infopembroke@carefor.ca](mailto:infopembroke@carefor.ca)

1ST MONTH FREE